and Jharkhand include (i) extension of financial assistance for renovation of existing units, setting up new coir units and purchase of generator sets for running coir units, (ii) conducting entrepreneur development programmes and quality improvement programmes for entrepreneurs, (iii) organizing exposure tour of entrepreneurs to traditional coir producing areas to acquaint them with the latest developments, (iv) technical assistance in setting up coir units, (v) field demonstration on applications of latest technology, etc.

(b) Steps taken to maximize husk collection in non-traditional areas include (i) area development activities in coconut producing States, (ii) skill development programmes and (iii) awareness-building programmes.

(c) No, Sir. The functions of the Coconut Development Board (CDB) and the Coir Board are different. While the CDB is mainly concerned with the promotion of coconut cultivation and marketing of coconut products, Coir Board is concerned with the development of coir and coir products and overall promotion of the coir industry. The coir industry, which is an export-oriented industry earning foreign exchange, provides employment to over five lakh people. The merger of the Coir Board with CDB might result in loss of focus on the coir industry.

Margin money scheme

2211. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) had launched Margin Money Scheme for setting up agro based and rural industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of agro and rural industries assisted under the scheme during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government had launched, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the Margin Money Scheme. This Scheme is now known as the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP). REGP is meant to promote and assist establishment of self-employment projects in the sector of village industries,

including agro-based industries. Under the REGP, entrepreneurs can establish agro-based/village (rural) industries, by availing of margin money assistance from the KVI*C* and loans from public sector scheduled commercial Ijaaks, selected regional rural banks and cooperative banks, etc.for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. The permissible margin money assistance is given in the table below:

Margin Money Assistance under REGP

SI. No.	Category of beneficiary	Project Cost	Margin money assistance
1.	Genera!	Upto Rs. 10 lakh . 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh	25 per cent of project cost 2.5 lakh plus 10 per cent of balance project cost
2.	SC/ST/Women/Ex-servicemen/NE Region/Hill areas	Upto Rs. 10 Lakh Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh	30 per cent of project cost Rs. 3 lakh plus 10 per cent of balance project cost.

Note : SC/ST-Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe; NE-North Eastern

(c) State/Union Territory (UT)-wise number of projects set up under REGP during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(d) For REGP, the Government has sanctioned the sum of Rs. 1101.50 crore to KVIC during 01 April, 1995—31 March, 2004, of which the sum of Rs. 1079.47 crore has been spent by the KVIC upto 31 March, 2004.

Statement

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise Number of Projects set up under REGP during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04

SLNo.	State/UT	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Chandigarh	119	01	08
2.	Delhi	31	9	07
3.	Haryana	511	677	923
4.	Himachal Pradesh	594	423	414
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	790	105	775
6.	Punjab	1118	1358	882
7.	Rajashtan	2647	3036	2496
8.	Andaman and Nicobar	50	196	58
9.	Bihar	37	229	88
10.	Jharkhand	191	298	323
11.	Orissa	619	668	1031
12.	West Bengal	2892	2459	3348
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	30	32
14.	Assam	199	559	1223
15.	Manipur	11	79	92
16.	Meghalaya	157	153	210
17.	Mizoram	9	143	33
18.	Nagaland	162	64	61
19.	Tripura	25	141	244
20.	Sikkim	—	16	113
21.	Andhra Pradesh	797	1818	1079
22.	Kamataka	1311	1411	1422
23.	Kerala	1437	789	2046
24.	Lakshadweep	1	—	09
25.	Pondicherry	6	3	37
26.	Tamil Nadu	598	764	1568
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	5	02

RAJYASAB	State/UT	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
28.	Goa	482	244	98
29.	Gujarat	83	126	290
30.	Maharashtra	2564	2249	857
31.	Chhattisgarh	139	216	08
32.	Madhya Pradesh	1049	703	1041
33.	Uttaranchal	269	375	1106
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1863	1677	2134
	TOTAL :	20767	21024	24747

REGP in Tamil Nadu

2212. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any agro-rural industries in Tamil Nadu under Rural Employment Generation Programme during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the fund allocation;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to further promote these sectors in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government of India does not set up units under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP). However, to promote village industries, including agro-rural industries, the Government has been implementing the REGP through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) throughout the country, including Tamil Nadu. Under this programme, an entrepreneur can establish projects by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loan from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks and cooperative banks, etc., for projects with **a** maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. The permissible margin money assistance is given in the table below: